



The Presbyter

April 2026

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Palm Sunday, March 29, Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIFT program in Fellowship Hall following worship

Maundy Thursday April 2, Worship 7:30 p.m.

Lord's Supper with Tenebrae ("Shadows")

Good Friday April 3, Worship 12 :00 p.m.,

Marking the Passion of Jesus

Easter Sunday April 5, 10:00 a.m.

Festive worship followed by an Easter Egg hunt

Keep in touch with us! Tell us what you would like to see in newsletters.

Visit our website at www.fpccs.org. Read Rev. Bill Carter's sermons online at <http://billcartersermons.blogspot.com>.

Time to start updating information, is your information up to date? Let's keep everyone in the loop with their current phone, email, address and a few more basics. Call or stop by the office to update.



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!
IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

Get Ready , it's coming to a pew near you

Sunday, April 12, 2026—10:00 a.m.

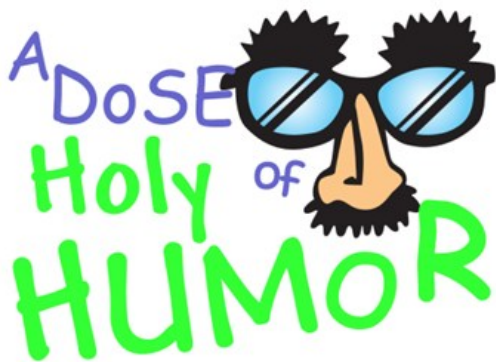


Table of Contents

Page 2 - Session, Deacons, Financial

Page 3 - From the Pastor

Page 4 - Adult CE, Lectionary

Page 5 - Christian Education

Page 6 - Mission & Justice

Page 7 - Volunteer Corner, Generosity Team

Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Prayers

Page 9 - Calendar

Page 10 - Joys, Prayers and Notes

Notes from the Session Meeting

Notes from the Session Meeting, March 10, 2026

1. The 2025 Statistical report for 2025 was approved by Session - copies are available upon request.
2. Session approved the baptisms of Samantha Cole and the daughters she shares with Jake Cole: Abby Jaelyn, Leda Ann, Mackensie Madison, and Raelynn Grace
3. A congregational meeting to elect officers will be held Sunday, April 26 to elect new officers.
4. On May 17, will be ordination and installation.
5. May 24 will be Ordination Sunday.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the May 2026 issue is April 17.

The Presbyterian is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. **Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Church Office	(570) 586-6306
Fax	(570) 587-3784
Web Page	www.fpccs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Joy Albright
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Editor	Christine Lee
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Michael Lambert

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Erika Adams
Deacon Meals	Diana Pope-Albright
Ushers	Bette Ellis
Deacon Driver	Jack Pittman

Church phone number is 570-586-6306

Please let the Board of Deacons Care Team Coordinators or the church office know if anyone is in need of care.

We're here to care for FPC members and friends and we count on all of you to let us know when help is needed. This is our ministry and our Christian privilege to care for you.

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING February, 2026

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 71,052
Actual Received	<u>76,603</u>
Difference	\$ 5,551

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 71,100
Actual Expenses	<u>72,014</u>
Difference	(\$915)

Result of operations	\$4,636
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PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 63,686
Actually received	<u>67,950</u>
	\$ 4,265

Per capita assessment for 2026 is \$48.00 per member.

From the Pastor

We observe Holy Week because it is the story of our redemption. It intersects with the Passover Festival, Israel's celebration of their freedom from slavery. An observant Jew, Jesus joined the crowds as they parade into the city. He was welcomed as one who "comes in the name of the Lord." No doubt, some believed he would deliver the city from the oppressive control of another empire – this time Rome, not Egypt.

He came to deliver, but not by force, politics, or cunning. No, he arrived on a humble donkey rather than a white war horse. It was a vulnerable choice. Holy Week proceeds through a series of intensifying conflicts. Religious leaders buzzed around him like hornets, yet he answered every test and remained true to his calling.

At the end of the week, he was betrayed to the authorities by Judas, one of his own. He suffered through sham trials and humiliations. Beaten and condemned, he was nailed to a cross and suffered a quick death. Ever since, the people who follow Jesus try to make sense of this cruel condemnation of an innocent man.

We say, "he died for our sins." I take that to mean he died because of our sins. We did our human worst to Jesus. The fact of his resurrection and return is evidence of God's forgiveness. One Gospel writer heard him pray, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they are doing." We can trust this prayer has been answered in the heart of God. The Holy One never retaliated for what we did to his Son. It is not in God's character to do so. We have been forgiven. We can trust this Good News.

So, imagine my surprise a few weeks ago, when I was working on a sermon and discovered there's more to the story. Matthew, Mark, and Luke affirm Jesus died a sacrificial death to free us from our sins. Mark even goes as far as to call it a "ransom" to set us free. This is a Holy Week view of Redemption. It is true.

Yet the Gospel of John sees even more. For John, "sin" is something more than what we do or refuse to do. As one scholar writes about the Fourth Gospel, "Sin is defined almost exclusively by one's relationship to Jesus, and more specifically, by whether one believes God is present in Jesus." (*) If God has come into the world through Jesus, the promise is sure: Jesus "takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). He takes sin away by coming to us – and building a relationship of trust with him. This is a post-Easter approach to redemption. We live with Christ, in Christ, and for Christ. Jesus is alive and claims us as his own. We allow nothing to stand between us and him. We welcome the life of eternity he breathes into us.

Can we still do harm to others? Sure, but only if we are not presently living in the love he commands for our life together. Can we lie? Yes, but only if we deny Jesus has come to reveal the Truth. Can we engage in shadowy behaviors that would embarrass us if revealed? Yes, but only if we actively avoid the Light of the World. The Christ illumines all our shadows. He invites us to step forward in freedom and live in his grace.

It is Easter again. Christ has come, Christ has died - and Christ is risen. We celebrate a present-tense Savior. We keep company with the One who knows us. We grow in his love by practicing more and more love. In living with the Lord each day, we "pass from death to life." And indeed, it is Easter again. Every day.

May the joy of Resurrection be with you, long before Christ raises you from the dead!

Rev. Bill

(*) Gail O'Day, *The New Interpreter's Bible, Volume 8* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2015) p. 664.

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 206. **Adult Choir** rehearses at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. **Bell Choir** rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities

Presbyterian Women – April 27, Lesson 7 of our study encourages us to seek to rediscover our identity.

Our core identity is not found in our titles, positions, partners, or possessions.

For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

As followers of Christ, we are to serve with a compassionate and healing spirit and be part of setting people free.

The author of our study uses Luke 13:10-17 to challenge us.

Main Idea: Lesson 7 of our study encourages us to seek to rediscover our identity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, positions, partners, or possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, we are to serve with a compassionate and healing spirit and be part of setting people free. The author of our study uses Luke 13:10-17 to challenge us.

Wednesday Bible Study: Strangers, Aliens, and Refugees

Did you know the Bible mentions care for the foreigner over 100 times? From Moses' command to "love the stranger as yourself," to Jesus saying "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," God's heart for the displaced and vulnerable is woven throughout all of Scripture.

Starting April 22 at 6 p.m. in Room 206, join us for an upcoming series on "Strangers, Aliens, and Refugees," where we'll examine a number of angles on what the Bible says — and discover what faithful responses might look like for us today.

Lectionary Readings

April 5: Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6 and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

April 12: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Ps. 16 or Ex. 15:1-11 and Ps. 111; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 19: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 or Isa. 51:1-6 and Ps. 34:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

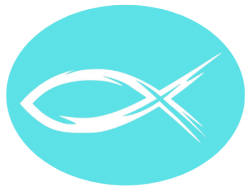
April 26: 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 and Ps. 23 or Ezek. 34:7-15 and Ps. 100; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

The Christian Education and Growth committee is pleased to offer a number of opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to explore the Bible, understand our traditions, and experience ways to live in faith. We believe that faith formation is a lifelong practice, so we invite everyone to find a class, opportunity, or practice that will grow YOUR faith this spring and beyond.

Bible Time: An opportunity for our **young children** (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way, weekly **Bible Time** will happen during worship, for about 20 minutes. Children will be invited to attend after the anthem and will return for prayers and the end of the service.



Confirmation Class: Confirmation continues for youth grade 7 and up. Lessons held most Sundays after worship, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost). We invite everyone to join us in celebrating our confirmands on this special day!

LIFT: Living In Faith Together



Join us after worship on **Sunday, May 17** for a meal and intergenerational program. It's our last LIFT before we break for the summer, so come explore the **Ascension** with us. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited. Enjoy a meal, Bible reading and discussion, and activity. It's a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.

Many thanks to those who have taught, lead, and fed us this past year, and thank you also to all who have participated — we'll see you for more LIFT in the fall!



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursday of every month. They gather for conversation at 8:30 a.m. in the Session Room (206) and have their study from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group

What do they do? They make warm, soft sleeping bags. With so many people living on the streets their only source of comfort may be a sleeping bag they carry with them.

This amazing group needs stuffing items, comforters, bedspreads, fleece and other like items. Also, men's neckties four are used on each for tying and carrying the bag.

So, keep them in mind when you're doing your spring cleanout. Warm sleeping bags is not seasonal with this group. People are in need all year. Thank you for your help.



MEN'S BREAKFAST



Mission and Justice Committee

Congratulations on your certification as an Earth Care Congregation! The steps your congregation has taken to care for God's earth are inspiring! Please accept this letter affirming your status as an Earth Care Congregation until February 2027.

The Earth Care Congregation program is housed under the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and we believe that hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction are linked areas of concern, constantly interacting with, and impacting one another. Please know that we are all here to help churches along their earth care journey. Should you ever like to share a story about earth care from your congregation, let us know!

Thank you for your commitment to caring for God's earth. I look forward to working with your church in the coming year.

Peace,
Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns,
Presbyterian Hunger Program, Interim Unified Agency

Northeast Regional Food Bank, CEO Weinberg

Thank you, to all the volunteers that came out to help pack boxes. These go out to local Senior citizens. Benefiting 4 Counties. A working day but so much fun and fellowship.



Save the Date!

VBS 2026 will be held **July 13-17**

Calling all volunteers!

If you'd like to help children explore Rome by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com

Stay tuned for more details!

Free Bibles: Take What You Need. Share Them With Others

You may have noticed that our Worship/Music/Arts committee has been replacing the Bibles in our pews. That means we have plenty to give away. Help yourself to one (or more) of the Bibles on a table in the Narthex. If you want more, there are a couple of boxes of used red pew Bibles in Room 210. Everybody needs a Bible! Help us find new homes for them.

State Hospital Luncheon

Our upcoming Spring luncheon with our guests from the Clarks Summit State Hospital is scheduled for April 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in attending for lunch, fellowship or questions about this event, please do not hesitate in calling 570-563-1887. Several bakers are needed to provide cookies and/or fancy breads. Due to allergies Please, no nuts.

*Refreshments
Lunch*



Volunteer Corner

Spotlight on.....

Bonnie Plantholt



Dinner Night

The Church Life Committee is sponsoring a Dinner Night at Montdale Country Club, Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m.

- Order from the menu
- Separate checks will be available

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Jo-Ann Hall at jodihall@nep.net or 570-806-1591.



Bonnie has been a member of FPC longer than she can pinpoint...but definitely longer than Rev. Carter has been here! She came to the church on the hill from Clarks Green Methodist Church.

A Northeastern Bank retiree, Bonnie can be found most Sunday mornings after worship in one of the back rooms counting and recording the morning offering (she was trained years ago by Jim McLaughlin). This responsibility doesn't end on Sundays. Come Tuesday, she finishes up when she volunteers in the church office from 9 a.m. to noon. In addition to her fiscal tasks, she greets visitors and answers the phone. Throughout her years at FPC, she has been an Elder and a Deacon and has served on a variety of committees.

Thank you, Bonnie, for contributing your time and talents. We appreciate you!



Arts at First Presbyterian presents Nate Worrell and Friends

Nate Worrell and Friends will entertain in a concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 26 at 4 p.m.

The talented young pianist and church member returns with a group of luminous colleagues that he has met at Ithaca College and elsewhere. Join us as we welcome the next generation of musical performers, including cellist Eli Jort, mezzo-soprano Anastasia Inglima, and flutist Catherine Huhn. Catherine has performed numerous times at the church as a soloist and in a chamber trio with Connie and John Weiss. She will perform works by J.S. Bach and Taffanel. Inglima will sing selections by Massenet, Rossini, Handel, and Obradors, while Jort is featured in two pieces by Chopin. Nate will be accompanying them on piano.

The concert is open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the cost of the event. Meet the artists at a reception held following the concert.

Save the date for our final 2026 Arts at First Presbyterian event:

Friday, May 15, 2025, 7 p.m. - An Evening of Broadway with Tim Shew

HICKORY STREET MEAL PROGRAM

As the food insecurity issue in our community becomes more prominent, our congregation's participation in the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Meal Program becomes more essential. With our last program in October 2025, we provided 240 meals, and distributed 55 bags of groceries. Experience tells us we can anticipate this level of need going forward, if not greater. Our next meal event at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church is scheduled for April 25. Your help in this endeavor is vital, and this service gathering provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as we continue in support of this important mission.

Preparation of the main dish, providing desserts, assistance at Hickory Street on meal day, and food transport from our church to Hickory Street are some of the tasks where volunteers are needed. Large pans for cooking the main dish will be provided. Donations of food for grocery bags is also an integral part of our commitment.

If you want to support our church's efforts financially, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, and indicate "Account No. 2041, Community Meals" in the check memo line. Similarly, if you donate online, please indicate the same notation in the note line under "Other Donations." The menu, recipes, sign-up sheets, and other information will be available in the narthex starting on Palm Sunday, March 29. We look forward to your ongoing support.

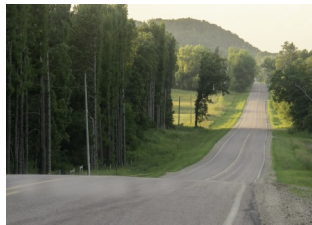


ADOPT A HIGHWAY

The schedule for the spring Morgan Highway cleanups is set for Saturday, May 2 and Saturday June 27. We will meet at the parking lot of the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church at 9 a.m. Safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags will be provided.

The scope of this highway cleanup extends along the Morgan Highway from County Club Road to Winola Road, and takes approximately one hour. PennDOT "Litter Crew Ahead" signs will be situated at appropriate intersections to aid in participant's safety. It should be noted, this activity is not appropriate for younger children.

If you have never participated in this program before, and would like to join the group, please contact Jack Scheuer at 570-362-3275 or ohn.scheuer123@gmail.com for more details.



"Journey Through Grief" books available

Losing a loved one is a difficult time. Often, we don't know where to turn for support. FPCCS offers a series of books that can help people after a loss.

The "Journey Through Grief" books is a series of four books sent out over the first year after someone dies. The first one goes out about two weeks after the death and the others are spaced so the last one arrives about a month before the anniversary of them passing. They were developed by the Stephen Ministries to offer spiritual help to people who are grieving. If you or someone you know has suffered a loss, we are happy to send these books. They don't need to be church members or even live close by. They have gone to people in many states.

Contact Judy Cutler at 570-446-9310 or jdragon-flyc@hotmail.com if you would like them sent to someone. She will need the name and address of the person they are going to and the name and date of death of the person who passed.

CLASS OF 2026

Calling all graduates!

If you are graduating this year (or know someone who is) we want to know. Whether it's a high school, college, or post-college graduation, we want to recognize your accomplishments...but we need to be sure you're on our list!

Please contact the church office at 586-6306 with information. Thank you.

FPC Young(er) Adults upcoming events

March 27: Traditional Irish Seisiun

We will join others at a Traditional Irish Seisiun on Friday, March 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will be held at The Gathering Place, 304 S. State St., Clarks Summit.

April 12: Bowling

On Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m., we will go bowling with some of the church youth at Idle Hours North, 2008 Scranton Carbondale Highway, Scranton. All adults and youth are welcome.

Contact Michael at mkthompson96@gmail.com or 518-577-8691 to join us for this and other events. We also have a Facebook group you can join!

Countryside Community Church is hosting a chicken barbecue Saturday, April 18, 14011 Orchard Drive, Clarks Summit, 3 to 6 p.m.. Orders are due by Sunday, April 12.

Advance ticket purchase guarantees your dinner until 6 p.m. There are limited walk-in orders available.

Tickets are \$15 each and include:

- 1/2 barbecue chicken
- baked potato
- creamy coleslaw
- baked beans
- roll with butter
- brownie



Joys



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Anne Rich | 11 John Rich |
| 1 Donna Evans | 12 Jennifer Sekol |
| 2 Colin Shane | 19 Mark Kusma |
| 5 John Diven | 23 Nancy London |
| 7 Donald S. Keen III | 26 Len Ballelli |

Prayers

Notes



Please send all updates to office@fpccs.org
 If you want it in the weekly bulletin, it must be received by Tuesday at 4pm for the same week.
 Weekly email updates are due Tuesday by 12:00 pm
 Presbyter deadlines are announced monthly.
 All committee chairs are asked to send monthly updates to the office.



- Samantha Jean Cole
- Abby Jaclyn Cole
- Leda Ann Cole
- MacKenzie Madison Cole
- Raelynn Grace Cole



We welcome new members who joined
 Our Church on March 29:
 Steve Bunnell Sean Kapp
 Susan Duckworth Pam Moshier



Prayer List for the churches of

Mountain Laurel Presbytery

- Lackawanna Valley Presbyterian Church / Peckville, Pa
- Pennside Presbyterian Church / Reading, Pa
- Hickory Street Presbyterian Church / Scranton, Pa
- FPC Troy / Troy, PA
- Welsh Presbyterian Church / Warrior Run, Pa
- Blank Slate Church / Allentown, Pa

For more information on our Presbytery, or for these individual churches,
 go online to www.mlpres.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on-line

Board and Committee Meetings

- Easter** — Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m., Worship Service
11:15 a.m., Easter egg hunt and fellowship
- Board of Deacons**—Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., Room 206
- Finance**—Thursday, April 2, 4:00 p.m., Room 211
- Building and Grounds**— Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m., Room 209
- Christian Education**—Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m., Room 206
- Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, April 7, 7 p.m., Room 206
- Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, April 2 and 16, 8:30 a.m., Room 206
- Food Pantry**—Thursday, April 9, 4:00p.m.
- Holy Humor Sunday**—Sunday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.
- MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, April 14 and 28, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**—Monday, April 27, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

- Prayer and Share** - Each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., Room 209
- Adult Education**—Each Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., Room 206
- Adult Choir**—Each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary
- Bell Choir**—Most Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Support Groups

We welcome members of the following support groups to our building on a regular basis, as scheduled:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning at 7 a.m. in Room 206.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) also meets each Tuesday evening, 7 p.m., Room 111.
- AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206.
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Deadline for the May 2026, Presbyterian: Friday, April 17, 2026.
Anticipated mailing date April 29



The Nursery, located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of the building, is open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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